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Patent
Attorney's Docket No. 033211-004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of)
Akifumi KAMIJIMA) Group Art Unit: 1765
Application No.: 09/781,226) Examiner: Vanessa Perez-Ramos
Filed: February 13, 2001) Confirmation No.: 7986
For: THIN-FILM PATTERNING)
METHOD, MANUFACTURING)
METHOD OF THIN-FILM DEVICE)
AND MANUFACTURING METHOD)
OF THIN-FILM MAGNETIC HEAD)

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RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Date: March 12, 2003

Sir:

This Response responds to Office Action dated December 19, 2002 (Paper No. 6).

REMARKS

This Response responds to the Office Action dated December 19, 2002 in which the Examiner rejected claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Claims 1, 8 and 9 claim a method of patterning a thin film, a method of manufacturing a thin film device using a thin-film patterning method and a method of manufacturing a thin-film magnetic head using a thin-film patterning method. The thin-film patterning method comprises the steps of: first, forming at least one strippable conductive film on a surface of a thin film to be patterned. Next, a mask is formed on the